

REMARKS

The Office action mailed on 4 February 2004 (Paper No. 7) has been carefully considered. Allowance of claims 6 thru 8 is greatly appreciated.

The specification and Abstract are being amended to correct minor errors and improve form. Claims 2, 9 and 11 are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1, 3 thru 8, 10 and 12 thru 14 are being amended, and new claim 15 is being added. Thus, claims 1, 3 thru 8, 10 and 12 thru 15 are pending in the application.

In paragraph 1 of the Office action, the Examiner objected to claims 6 thru 8 for informalities. Independent claim 6 is being amended in a manner consistent with the comment set forth by the Examiner in paragraph 1 of the Office action. Thus, the objection to claims 6 thru 8 no longer applies, and should be withdrawn. Furthermore, it should be noted that claims 6 thru 8 are being amended for the purpose only of improving their form, and thus allowance of these claims is still appropriate.

In paragraph 3 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 9 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102 for alleged anticipation by Okamoto *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,627,655. In paragraph 6 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103 for alleged unpatentability over Okamoto *et al.* '655 in view of Knudson *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,442,332. In paragraph 7 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected

claims 10 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103 for alleged unpatentability over Okamoto '655 in view of Dunlap *et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,177,618. In paragraph 8 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103 for alleged unpatentability over Okamoto '655 and Dunlap *et al.* '618, and further in view of Knudson *et al.* '332. In paragraph 9 of the Office action, the Examiner objected to claims 2, 3 and 11 for dependency upon a rejected base claim, but stated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In paragraph 10 of the Office action, the Examiner stated that claims 6 thru 8 contained allowable subject matter over the prior art. For the reasons stated below, it is submitted that the invention recited in the claims, as now amended, is distinguishable from the prior art cited by the Examiner so as to preclude rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103.

Independent claim 1 is being amended to include the recitations from dependent claim 2, which is merely objected to for dependency upon a rejected base claim. Therefore, independent claim 1 and its associated dependent claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Dependent claim 4 is being amended to appear in independent form. For the reasons stated below, it is submitted that claim 4 recites the invention in a manner distinguishable from the prior art so as to preclude rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 or

§103.

In the latter regard, in paragraph 3 of the Office action, the Examiner rejected dependent claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §102 for alleged anticipation by Okamoto *et al.* '655. With regard to claim 4, the Examiner alleged (at the bottom of page 2 of the Office action) that “the feature of indicating detection of the copy-preventing signal when a pulse count value in a predetermined interval of the composite synchronizing signal being equal to or greater than a predetermined threshold value as specified thereof would be present in Okamoto *et al.*” (quoting from the paragraph bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Office action). In the latter regard, the Examiner cited column 5, lines 31-39 of Okamoto *et al.* '655.

However, a review of column 5, lines 31-39 of Okamoto *et al.* '655 reveals a disclosure of a level comparison circuit 72 which “compares the input video signal with a threshold value as shown at chained line in FIG. 4 to deliver a high level when the video signal level exceeds the threshold level” (quoting from column 5, lines 32-35 of Okamoto *et al.* '655). It is respectfully submitted that this does not constitute detection of a copy-preventing signal by comparing a pulse count value in a predetermined interval of a composite synchronizing signal to a predetermined threshold value, as recited in claim 4. Rather, at the cited portion of Okamoto *et al.* '655, there is merely a disclosure of a level comparison circuit 72 which examines an input video signal, and compares the signal

level of an input video signal with a threshold level so as to deliver a high level level signal when the level of the video signal exceeds the threshold level. however, Okamoto *et al.* '655 does not state any connection or relationship between this “high level signal” and a copy-preventing signal. Okamoto *et al.* '655 further describes a control signal register 73 which takes in the output level of the level comparison circuit 72 as copy information, and transfers that copy information to a reporting/reproducing control circuit 4 (see column 5, lines 35-39 of Okamoto *et al.* '655). Moreover, upon receipt of the copy information from the control signal register 73, the recording/reproducing control circuit 4 sends a recording command signal and a reproducing command signal to a recording control circuit 42 and a reproduction control circuit 43, respectively (see column 5, lines 40-45 of the patent). This does not constitute the detection of a copy-preventing signal and a composite synchronizing signal when a pulse count value in a predetermined interval of the composite synchronizing signal is not less than a predetermined threshold value, as recited in claim 4. Thus, it cannot be said that claim 4 recites the invention in such a manner as to be anticipated by or obvious in view of the disclosure of Okamoto *et al.* '655.

Independent 10 is being amended to include the recitation of dependent claim 11, which is being canceled. Since the Examiner indicated that dependent claim 11 was merely objected to for dependency upon a rejected base claim, independent claim 10 and its associated dependent claim should now be in condition for allowance.

Independent process claim 13 is being amended to include a recitation corresponding to the recitation of dependent claim 4 discussed above. Thus, for the same reasons as set forth above relative to amended claim 4, independent claim 13 recites a process which is distinguishable from the prior art cited by the Examiner so as to preclude rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103.

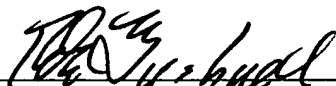
Independent process claim 14 is being amended to include a recitation corresponding to the recitation of dependent claim 11 discussed above. As stated above, since the Examiner merely objected to dependent claim 11 for dependency upon a rejected base claim, and indicated that dependent claim 11 recited patentable subject matter, independent claim 14 should now be in condition for allowance.

Finally, new independent claim 15 recites the process of original independent claim 13 in combination with a recitation corresponding to the recitation from original dependent claim 2. Since original dependent claim 2 was merely objected to for dependency upon a rejected base claim, new independent process claim 15 should now be in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert E. Bushnell,
Attorney for the Applicant
Registration No.: 27,774

1522 "K" Street N.W., Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 408-9040

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